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TWO AREA WOMEN INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME  
IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

WESLEY CHAPEL, FL (May 5, 1996) -- South Tampa resident Andrea Graham and St. Petersburg Beach resident Dee Coates were recognized for aiding in the fight against AIDS and officially inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame by tennis star Billie Jean King and National AIDS Fund President Paula Van Ness in a ceremony conducted on Center Court during the Virginia Slims Legends tournament today.

Tampa AIDS Network (TAN) nominated Graham, a TAN Board of Directors member since 1991 with an emphasis in fundraising and community awareness, for the honor. Graham dedicates this honor to her brother, Lee, who died from AIDS in 1990. Her contributions include the production of more than ten Broadway and entertainment-oriented AIDS fundraisers; organization of the first public forum for the Tampa AIDS Network in 1986; formation of the group "Concerned Citizens for AIDS"; and she played a key role in bringing the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt to Tampa for the first time in 1989.

AIDS Coalition Pinellas (ACP) nominated Coates to honor her for her many contributions in the fight against AIDS including fundraising and raising community awareness about HIV/AIDS. Coates has been instrumental in the growth of ACP and serves as Chairperson of the annual Red Ribbon Ball, ACP's largest and most visible fundraiser. Coates speaks to numerous organizations, businesses and individuals about the importance of funding AIDS service organizations.

TAN and ACP are the local beneficiaries of the Virginia Slims Legends Tour stop in the Tampa area, and the National AIDS Fund is the Tour's national charity. King is a board member of the National AIDS Fund and the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

"Through our partnership with the Virginia Slims Legends, we were able to raise more than \$16,000 in the Tampa Bay area this weekend," said Van Ness.

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